

BOYS OF SUMMER

A Tribute to
Picatinny Softball

PAGES 10



BROAD VIEW

Army's Chief
Scientist

PAGE 9



CELEBRATION

Community
Center Opens

PAGE 2



THE PICATINNY VOICE



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January 28, 2011

LET THERE BE

LIGHT!

Advanced **illuminating rounds** bring infrared capability to all calibers of Army mortars and artillery

BY TRACY ROBILLARD

Picatinny Public Affairs

Soldiers now have the ability to engage the enemy far more effectively at night after the recent full materiel release of three infrared illuminating cartridges/projectiles.

The term "full materiel release" signifies that the Army has rigorously tested and evaluated the item and determined that it is safe, operationally suitable, and logistically supportable for use by Soldiers.

The M1064 105mm Infrared Illuminating Cartridge; the M1066 155mm Infrared Illuminating Projectile; and the M992 40mm Infrared Illuminant Cartridge were approved for full materiel release via the Program Executive Office for Ammunition (PEO Ammo), headquartered at Picatinny.

"PEO Ammo manages and oversees the acquisition and lifecycle of all conventional ammunition for U.S. warfighters," said Brig. Gen. Jonathan Maddux, Picatinny Senior Commander and the Program Executive Officer for Ammunition.

"Products like infrared illuminating cartridges and

projectiles are just a few examples of how we strive to be leaders in providing the best conventional, leap-ahead munitions that bring new and more effective capabilities to our joint warfighters."

M1064 105mm Infrared (IR) Illuminating Cartridge

Approved for full materiel release on Dec. 9, 2010, the M1064 provides enhanced covert capability over the current 105mm, M314A3 Illuminating Cartridge (visible light) due to the candle's faint visible signature while descending in the air.

Fired from an M119 series howitzer, the IR illumination capability of the M1064 greatly improves visibility in tactical operations against enemy targets during periods of darkness when using Night Vision Devices.

Ground coverage of IR illumination provides over 2.5 times the diameter of visible light illumination,



Information graphic by Tracy Robillard/Ed Lopez

which enables friendly forces using the M1064 greater fields of view to make a better assessment targets and to engage the enemy.

"IR illumination increases mobility during night operations, allowing the commander to shape tactical engagements, mass effects and support maneuverability from disparate locations and lessen over reliance on direct fires," said William Vogt, Project Officer for Mortars and Artillery Illumination, Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems (PM-CAS), the PEO Ammo group that manages the M1064.

See **INFRARED**, Page 3



Maj. Gen. Nick Justice urges a rethinking of processes.

'New ideas and new advances in everything that we do' RDECOM commander outlines imperative for creating new status quo

ARMY NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here is an excerpt from a recent column by Maj. Gen. Nick Justice, commander of the Research Development and Engineering Command, ARDEC's parent command.

I want to start off by congratulating everyone for a successful 2010. We did a tremendous job of supporting the warfighter.

I want to talk to you a little bit about how successful you were in a fast and furious time. We delivered new technologies, tested new equipment and stood ready to support our Army in every way possible. We implemented great new ideas through your creative thinking, innovation and hard work. But the challenge does not end with the ending of last year.

We still face great challenges. Each and every day, the men and women of our Armed Forces provide us with opportunities to exceed the standards we've set for ourselves.

I'd like you to focus on how you contribute to empowering, unburdening and protecting those young men and women, our nation's most precious resource, in their task of defending America in a time of war.

I would like to ask you to set a few goals for yourself this year.

In 2011, we're going to move forward and globally engage with our warfighters by getting closer to those formations to provide clarity to their problems and understand how our contributions can empower them in new and innovative ways.

I'd ask you to think about how you can reform and transform some of those systems, to reinvent capabilities that they already have to be more efficient, leaner and less of a burden.

I'd ask you to stop and think about how you can be proactive instead of reactive. Anticipate the problems our Soldiers face. Ask yourself what you can do to

See **JUSTICE**, Page 2



Photo by Todd Mozes

The new Army community center will house a wide range of functions.

New center opens after extensive renovations

BY MARK SANCHEZ

Picatinny Public Affairs

After years of planning by the Army Community Service and about 11 months of renovations, Picatinny Arsenal's new Army Community Readiness and Support Center opened on Jan. 11.

The 8,600 square foot building located on Buffington Road, Bldg. 119, had been undergoing renovations since February 2010 that cost about \$1.3 million.

"It was a long process, but it was very worth the wait," Tammy Mitchell, the Chief of Army Services, said at the Cannon Gate Catering and Conference Center before the ribbon cutting. She spoke glowingly about the programs that the new building will allow.

Chaplain Maj. Kevin Doll said the new center will serve as the central location for various needs of Soldiers and their families. He called the building the start of a "new era" for "spiritual, emotional, physical and mental needs" of Soldiers and their loved ones.

Lt. Col. Herb Koehler, the garrison com-

mander, thanked Mitchell, former Lt. Col. John Stack, and Lee Moreau, former director of the installation's Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorate.

Shortly after, with one snip from giant scissors, Mitchell, Lt. Col. Koehler, Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Koroll, and Maj. Doll opened the remodeled facility, allowing all to tour the new Support Center.

The center houses a host of Army services, including the Army Community Service, the Chaplain's Office, the National Association for Retired Federal Employees and the Department of Labor Veterans Affairs. It holds private offices for all Community Readiness and Support program managers and contains a children's room, family readiness room, depression room, resource library and a classroom for children.

Notably, the new Support Center boasts a "resiliency" room. Master Resiliency Trainers have partnered with the chaplain and other agencies to provide classes for the mind, body and spirit, primarily for Soldiers and their families.

Justice asks for definition of individual, team success

Continued from Page 1

make their equipment more reliable, sustainable, lighter, effective, and more efficient.

In the past we've made many breakthroughs. These advances didn't happen easily. People had to look deeply into the problems and understand how our technologies get the capabilities to the field.

Sometimes it's not the elegance of the solution, but simplicity that is really of the most value to the Warfighter.

I'd ask you to break status quos.

Come up with new ideas and new advances in everything we produce. This means from the basic research and science, to the technologies and

'In a time when we have to tighten the belt on resources, those resources become incredibly precious and well-focused'

engineering solutions we develop from it.

Great minds and creative people will make that happen for our Army. Whatever you do...as a service member, Family Member, civilian employee or contractor, each of us has a part to play.

In a time when we have to tighten the belt on resources, those resources become incredibly precious and well-focused. The tightening of resources will allow us to focus ourselves better, providing greater synergy and integration into what we do.

In 2011, we're going to hear more about our people, places, purse, processes and products as we drive more integration into what we've done.

I'd ask you to do three things:

- I want you to begin this new year by developing an individual plan and concept of what will define your success, and the success of your team.
- Look to your peers and collaborate with them. Innovation occurs when bright, talented people get together and communicate and talk and argue over ideas, the pluses and minuses, the pro's and con's of everything we do.
- I ask you once again to focus on those young men and women in our Armed Forces in harm's way.

Our Soldiers make an incredible sacrifice in the face of unprecedented challenges. To empower, unburden and find ways to protect them is our calling. There's no one else in the United States Army who does this mission but you.

Public Affairs Office

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We want your story ideas. To reach us, please contact the editor at the Picatinny Public Affairs Office. All manuscripts, photos or artwork may not be returned without prior coordination. Digital images should be submitted at a resolution of at least 200 pixels per inch. Due to space limitations, the editor reserves the right to edit submitted articles. Contributions can be sent by e-mail to picavoic@conus.army.mil.

The editorial policy of The Picatinny Voice is to accept letters to the editor and commentaries. Submissions must be signed or received via e-mail through your own account to be considered for publication, but writer's names may be withheld upon request. Opinions expressed are those of each author and not an official expression of the Department of the Army or the Command. **The PicatinnyVoice reserves the right to select, reject or edit letters and articles to meet space constraints, achieve clarity or for propriety considerations.**

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THE PICATINNY VOICE



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Milan ammunition plant undergoes modernization

BY BRITTANY BARTHOLOMEW

Army News Service

MILAN, Tenn. – The new year had the employees of Milan Army Ammunition Plant seeing stars, but not because of fireworks.

During the first week of the new calendar year, MLAAP hosted not one, but two, one-star generals at the Milan plant.

On Jan. 4, 2011, Brig. Gen. Gustavo Perna, commanding general for Joint Munitions Command, arrived at MLAAP, a subordinate installation of JMC, for his first visit to the Tennessee plant. The next day, MLAAP had the opportunity to welcome Brig. Gen. Jonathan Maddux, the Program Executive Officer for Ammunition, for informational briefings and a plant tour.

Perna commended the Milan staff on the great work that they do, along with all of JMC.

“I have served three tours in Iraq... Not once have I had a problem getting ammunition. I have been saved more than one time by a 40mm round shot over my head,” Perna declared.

During his one-day visit, which was filled with introductions, information, and inquiries, Perna received briefings both from American Ordnance (AO), the operating contractor at MLAAP, and from the government staff. These briefings included information about the plant's current operations, the current contract with AO, and the plant's products and capabilities.

The commanding general addressed the group and outlined his top ten priorities for his command. He explained the importance of modernization and of the warm base.

Perna explained, “[When it comes to



Brig. Gen. Jonathan Maddux, left, the Program Executive Officer for Ammunition, and Col. Jeffrey Wilson, right, project director for PEO Ammo, inspect the product as it leaves the production line at Milan Army Ammunition Plant during their January tour. Army photo

ammunition] we want as much as we want of it, when we want it.”

The general referenced the corporate world, explaining that typical businesses experience milder and more predictable fluctuations in supply and demand.

“The Army is looking for a solution to the ups and downs in the demand for ammunition,” Perna said. He explained

that the ammunition industrial base must be ready for the next contingency, even as the current wars are drawing down.

Perna also received a briefing on the Environmental Assessment (EA) conducted at MLAAP. Because the 2008 contract with AO incorporated that company's proposal to consolidate production operations from Milan AAP to Iowa AAP, the Army and AO were required to assess the impact of those changes to the environment at each plant. Leaders from both AO and the government staff presented the issues raised by the EA process. Perna indicated that he would continue to work toward the best solution.

In addition to the positive results observed down-range, Perna emphasized the value of best practices. He expressed his desire to identify these and allow sharing among all JMC installations. Through best practices, Perna explained, universal improvement can be realized.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Eoff, along with her staff, hosted Perna on a plant-wide tour through several production lines. Through walking presentations by MLAAP's quality assurance team, Perna learned about the equipment and processes utilized at Milan, including MLAAP-specific production of the 40mm high explosive and the Spider grenades.

The general concluded his visit on a positive note. He acknowledged that results take time, but he encouraged the staff to be diligent. Perna also reinforced his commitment to partnership.

Perna repeated to the staff, “I need you to help me help you.”

Maddux began his visit by sitting down with an intimate group of plant leaders to discuss the conditions of the contract

and of the workforce at MLAAP. The general received briefings on the current command's structure and functions, the operating contractor's structure and functions, and an update on the current BRAC and modernization projects.

During the presentations, the government staff expressed concerns about work-loading efforts, especially concerning BRAC capabilities received at MLAAP, which may require prove-out to validate the capability of the production line.

Likewise, AO leaders expressed their concerns about delays in contract execution.

In response, Maddux requested more detail about the workload needs and capabilities addressed by the government personnel. Maddux also requested further documentation from AO regarding contract delays.

After the presentations, the executive officer, along with members of the government staff, led Maddux on a plant tour which focused on the BRAC and modernization efforts in several production areas, as well as the test range.

One of the modernization efforts involves an upgraded deluge system that increases worker safety while decreasing the amount of water expended.

The perspective MLAAP gained from both generals is broad. The message: The Army is moving toward change; the priority should be preparedness.

Modernization and optimization will facilitate this preparedness while maintaining current quality and safety.

Through this vision—this paradigm shift—today's Army will become tomorrow's standard for effectiveness and efficiency.

Infrared products give added edge to Soldiers

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, the M1064 uses the same firing solutions as the M314A3, which allows the use of two capabilities—infrared light and visible light—without firing adjustments.

The Army has 8,300 M1064s in inventory and plans to procure an additional 5,500 by the end of fiscal year 2011. Plans call for acquisition of approximately 3,000 cartridges every other year. The M1064IR Cartridge is slightly higher in cost than the M314A3, but it provides improved capability.

M1066 155MM INFRARED (IR) ILLUMINATING PROJECTILE

Approved for full materiel release on Oct. 14, 2010, the M1066 IR illumination artillery projectile provides approximately 120 seconds of IR illumination. This round provides enhanced covert capability over the current 155mm M485 Visible Light projectile and greatly improves visibility in tactical operations against enemy

targets when using Night Vision Devices.

In addition to the visibility enhancement, IR Illumination provides a covert capability due to its faint visible signature while in the air. Ground coverage of IR illumination provides over two times the diameter of illumination when compared to the M485A2 visible light illuminating projectile now in the U.S. inventory.

The M1066 can be fired from a 155mm howitzer system like the M109, M777, and M198 howitzers. It is fired with the M762A1 electronic time fuze and could be fired with the M119A2, M231, M232A1 propelling charge.

Like the M1064, the M1066 also provides warfighters the opportunity to use both infrared and visible light.

Also managed by PM-CAS, the Army plans to procure 7,000 M1066 rounds in fiscal year 2010, and 4,000 every other year. The U.S. Marine Corps plans on procuring 8,000 in fiscal year 2011 and approximately 4,000 every other year. The cost of the projectile is about the same as the visible light projectile.

M992 40MM INFRARED (IR) ILLUMINANT CARTRIDGE

Approved for full materiel release on Oct. 8, 2010, the M992 provides an illumination/signaling capability via

an infrared candle – a first of its kind for the M203 and M320 grenade launchers. The round can also be fired from the legacy M79 grenade launcher.

“The M992 provides a capability not previously available to the Soldier that takes advantage of U.S. Armed Forces technology to improve night-time operation success,” said Gregory Bubniak, Project Officer for 40mm Ammunition, Project Manager Maneuver Ammunition Systems (PM-MAS).

“It enhances night operation capabilities of troops equipped with night vision equipment, while producing minimal visual signature outside of the infrared spectrum. This will allow users to access the approximately 90,000 cartridges available in inventory.”

Managed by PM-MAS, the Army plans to field approximately 22,000 M992 cartridges in 2011.

The M992 is approximately 50 percent more costly than visible light spectrum cartridges fired from the M203 and M320 (such as the M583A1, M661 and M662) due to the small quantities purchased. However, increased quantities would cut cartridge cost sharply, Bubniak said.

“The product cost is justified by the M992 capability when compared to limited alternative IR device options currently available to the user,” he said.



Photo by Todd Mozes

Cast members pose with Picatinny Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Herb Koehler for the Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre program, "Murder 101," which performed at the Cannon Gate Conference Center Jan. 7-8. Picatinny was selected to participate in the program via the Army's Morale Welfare Recreation Entertainment initiative.

Picatinny, ARDEC social media sites inform public of important contributions

Social media sites leverage the power of the Internet to inform the public and members of the Picatinny Arsenal community about activities at the home of the United States Army in northern New Jersey.

Please take time to visit and share the addresses of these

various informative sites:

www.facebook.com/PicatinnyArsenal

www.twitter.com/Picatinny_NJ

www.flickr.com/PicatinnyArsenal

www.facebook.com/rdecom.ardec

www.twitter.com/ardec

New ICE focus in February

The Garrison values your opinions and comments and we want to ensure that we provide you with the best services possible. We welcome you to visit the Picatinny Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) site on-line at https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=401 and provide us with your comments regarding our services.

During the month of February, we ask that you focus your comments on the Directorate of Logistics and the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, although we encourage you to use ICE for all 50 of our services.

The following is list of service providers that fall under our featured services for February:

Directorate of Logistics: Hand Receipts, HAZMAT, Transportation, Travel, Shipping and Receiving Building 91, Motor Pool, Vehicle Maintenance and Installation Warehouse Support.

Directorate of Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation: Army Community Service, Child and Youth Services, Food, Beverage, and Entertainment, Golf Program, Recreation Delivery System.

Customer comment cards for all garrison services are available on-line 24/7. ICE can also be accessed through the garrison home page at <http://garrison.pica.army.mil/>. Please feel free to use ICE often.

Community Recreation Branch

The Community Recreation "Take Off" Center, located at Bldg. 34, has several upcoming events. For more information, the Center can be reached at ext. 4014 and is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- Saturday, February 5: New York Museum Excursion Bus Trip. Transportation only is provided at \$25 per person. Stops will be made at both the Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Entrance fees for the museums are payable at the door. (Natural History: \$16/adult, \$9/child). (Metropolitan: \$20/Adult, \$10/child). The group will depart from Picatinny at 9 a.m. and everyone will have 5.5 hours of free time in the City. In New York, group members may shop, go sightseeing or visit the museums.

- Feb. 16: New Jersey Devil Group Night. Upper level tickets and a \$10 food coupon are available to see the Devils play the Carolina Hurricanes. One ticket and the coupon, a \$69 value, costs \$38. The deadline is Feb. 9.

- Saturday, February 19: Atlantic City Bus Trip. The group will have six hours of free time. The bus departs Picatinny at 8 a.m. The casino destination and package has yet to be announced. This is also the weekend of the Classic Car Show at the Atlantic City Convention Center. \$28 per person. The group will return to Picatinny at 7:30 p.m.

- Oct. 8-15: Fall Foliage Cruise on

the Norwegian Jewel: Picatinny is sponsoring a group tour for a seven day Canada and New England cruise. Departure from New York, and the group will visit Sydney, Nova Scotia, Halifax, Saint John, Bay of Fundy and Portland, Maine. Prices start at \$849.66 per person/double occupancy.

- April 4-9: Nashville, Tennessee Trip. For six days and five nights, those interested will travel via motor coach. Included are full, hot breakfasts every morning, three dinners that will include the Nashville Nightlife Dinner Theatre, performances at the Grand Ole Opry and Texas Trebadour Theatre. Additional stops: the Wildhouse Saloon where members can learn to Line Dance, the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Belle Meade Plantation.

Cost is \$705 per person double occupancy, \$895.00 per person single occupancy or \$695 per person for triple occupancy. The return will be mid-day April 9. Everything but lunches, three dinners and one breakfast plus hotel and driver gratuities are included in this trip. A minimum deposit of 50 percent is due at the time of sign-up. Final payment is due March 1.

- Mountain Creek Ski Lift tickets: On weekends or holidays, adults pay \$54 per ticket while children ages 7-18 pay \$39. On weekdays, adults pay \$39 per ticket while children ages 7-18 pay \$29.

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Science and Technology Fair scheduled for March 23

BY ARIFA MUSALLI

Special to The Picatinny Voice

The Armament Research, Development and Engineering center will host its Fourth Annual Science & Technology Fair and Networking day in The Cannon Gates Catering Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 23.

The fair is open to all ARDEC and PEO/PM civilians and U.S. military employees.

The Fair will provide the opportunity to meet with government engineers and scientists who are dedicated to shaping the future state of technology. This event is a forum to exchange ideas, perspectives, and expertise on requirements, technology, and programs.

The fair will give our employees a better understanding of our current science and technology portfolio and allow employees to view the ongoing work at ARDEC. Displays will permit engineers and scientists to share their knowledge and experience.

Keep your technical edge and gain practical insight from the top researchers and engineers at Picatinny. ARDEC Leadership will address the audience and focus on the value of the S&T process.

The ARDEC science and engineering community is strongly encouraged to participate in this event by stopping by and viewing exhibits and collaborating with your colleagues.

Looking Back ... At Picatinny

BY PATRICK J. OWENS

ARDEC Historian

Elsewhere in this issue, *The Picatinny Voice* reports on the recent opening of the Community Readiness and Support Center. This is the latest in a series of missions for building 119. Its function on opening in 1887 was shell storage. Later, it conducted shell billing before it became the base infirmary in reaction to the influenza epidemic of World War II. The first of the accompanying photos shows the infirmary staff in the 1920s.

The second photo shows why it ceased to be an infirmary. The hole in the roof was the result of debris, probably a shell, from the 1926 explosion. After the explosion, 119 served as a temporary office building, enlisted quarters, and a furniture storehouse until, in the late 1930s, it underwent major remodeling to become family quarters, its mission until the recent change.



Left, Teresa W. Gerton, Executive Deputy to the Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, looks at a mortar system at the High Bay building during a visit to Picatinny Arsenal Jan. 21. Also pictured is David Castellano, center, executive director for ARDEC's Weapons & Software Engineering Center, and ARDEC Director Dr. Gerardo Melendez.

Photo by Todd Mozes.



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Continuous innovation yields improved protection

Building on earlier stages of innovations, ARDEC personnel and partners help shield gunners from combat dangers

BY TRACY ROBILLARD

Picatinny Public Affairs

Chances are, warfighters who have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan are familiar with the Objective Gunner Protection Kit, or OGPK, that shields them from a variety of lethal combat threats.

The OGPK is an integrated armor and ballistic glass turret mounted onto the turret ring of tactical and armored vehicles. The kit consists of a turret shield, gun shield and all necessary hardware for mounting the system to a vehicle.

With more than 45,000 of these systems fielded to date, the OGPK is standard-issue equipment for the Army's tactical gunner vehicles—from up-armored Humvees in Operation New Dawn in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, as well as for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles.

But while Soldiers may be familiar with the OGPK, less known are the people responsible for developing the product.

PICATINNY ANSWERS THE CALL

It all started around 2005, when U.S. gunmen operating in up-armored Humvees in Iraq and Afghanistan needed better protection against Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and enemy small arms fire. Soldiers needed something to give them 360-degree protection yet still provide full view of their surroundings.

To meet the urgent need, the Army called on the expertise of the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), headquartered at Picatinny Arsenal. ARDEC and its team of government partners provided Soldiers with a finished product in just six months—a timeline nearly unheard of in the Army's world of research, development and acquisition.

"As the lead design agency, ARDEC leveraged its expertise in lethal systems, including crew served weapons and target designation systems, to ensure the full performance capability of the Humvee Turret Gunner, while also enhancing survivability and confidence for battlefield mission effectiveness," said Lead Design Engineer Thomas J. Kiel.



The Objective Gunner Protection Kit (OGPK) is an integrated armor and ballistic glass turret that is mounted onto the turret ring of tactical and armored vehicles. Army photo.

Soldiers loved it so much, in fact, that the OGPK was named one of the Army's top 10 Greatest Inventions for the year it was fielded in 2007. But innovation didn't end there.

The ARDEC team built on lessons learned in the development and deployment of the OGPK to rapidly design and fabricate prototypes for additional capabilities, including an Overhead Cover and an Objective Weapon Elevation Kit. These two inventions were also named Army Greatest Inventions of 2008 and 2009.

THE ENGINEERING BEHIND OGPK

As soon as the Operational Needs Statement came to ARDEC in 2005, Kiel and his team began to brainstorm. The immediate challenge was how to balance increased armored protection with weapon maneuverability.

"For example, the Soldier needs rapid and sufficient weapon maneuverability to engage targets effectively, but increased range of motion of the weapon typically leads to reduced protection due to the interference between the weapon and the armor panels," Kiel explained.

The team relied on battle-hardened Soldiers who had recently returned from Iraq. By working closely with Soldiers, including performing live missions in Iraq on four prototype systems to get feedback, the team came up with an optimal design.

"ARDEC was able to develop an engineered solution based on the concepts expressed by the warfighters," Kiel said. "We designed the OGPK as a modular system so that future enhancements

could be incorporated quickly."

"We found a solution that provided full wrap-around protection, while still ensuring the gunner's ability to engage targets effectively," Kiel added. "We used an innovative asymmetric armor design kit with strategically-placed modular armor panels, including transparent panels to give the Soldier more visibility."

Another key feature of the OGPK system is the Battery Powered Motorized Traversing Unit, which ensures full 360-degree rotation of the turret with the use of an electronic joystick.

The pivotal factor in fabricating a prototype so quickly was Picatinny's variety of unique facilities that house the people and the equipment necessary for the rapid prototyping of just about any piece of armament technology imaginable.

"Advances in manufacturing science research at Picatinny have allowed us to develop affordable and efficient production processes for armor components," Kiel explained.

"The ARDEC design allows the use of modern production equipment, including laser cutting, robotic welding, automated forming and finishing operations, which results in virtually unprecedented production rates."

Close cooperation among various government agencies and contractors contributed to the successful project. The Project Manager for Light Tactical Vehicles was crucial to the platform integration and fielding of the armor kits to theater. With their manufacturing capacity and modern processing methods Army depots and arsenals achieved high rates of production.

INNOVATION CONTINUES WITH OGPK OVERHEAD COVER

In March 2007, Picatinny received a

request from Soldiers in theater for a turret gunners' low signature top cover.

"ARDEC immediately regrouped with the same government agencies and Soldiers recently returned from theater to develop an Army-wide solution for this urgent requirement," Kiel said. "This effort was truly a Soldier and Army civilian teaming approach."

The innovation process required a complex systems integration effort that factored in the vehicle platform, including the turret ring and roof structure, to ensure the system wasn't overloaded by the added weight.

ARDEC worked with the Program Manager for Light Tactical Vehicles (PM-LTV) and Soldiers from Company B, 173rd Airborne Brigade Support Battalion, to optimize the overhead cover for mission effectiveness and maximum survivability.

In 2008, more than 30 Overhead Cover systems for the OGPK were fielded for tactical vehicles, including the M1151 Up-Armored Humvee used in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2009, more than 5,000 Overhead Cover systems were fielded for Humvees. The Overhead Cover was named an Army Greatest Invention of 2008.

WEAPON ELEVATION KIT TAKES IT UP 80

In January 2008, ARDEC and PM-MRAP received a request from the 401st Army Field Support Brigade in Afghanistan for a way to safely "super-elevate" the M2 machine gun to engage elevated targets while remaining protected inside the OGPK.

Within ARDEC, various concepts began to take shape. Within one month, the team developed a prototype, received a safety release and shipped it to Soldiers for their feedback.

"The warfighters were pleased and asked for immediate production and fielding of these kits," said Sanjay Parimi, lead ARDEC Project Officer.

"ARDEC worked with PM-MRAP and the Special Operations Command to produce and field hundreds of systems."

"The innovative design of the elevation kit is integral with the OGPK—so it doesn't require any modifications to the weapon or mounts," Parimi said.

"It's a modular design with minimal dynamic components. It's robust, effective, and conducive to high-rate manufacture. It was entirely designed and produced by Soldiers and government personnel at government facilities."

The weapon elevation kit was an Army Greatest Invention of 2009 and the project team was recognized at the 27th Army Science Conference.



The Overhead Cover was named one of the Army's 10 Greatest Inventions for 2008. Army photo.

eCYBERMISSION volunteers sought to promote science, math

eCYBERMISSION, a team-based science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competition for students in grades six through nine, is entering its ninth year of inviting students to use the scientific method to identify and test solutions for problems in communities.

In eCYBERMISSION, the teams of three to four students compete for regional and national awards by creating a real project or mission to benefit a specific area. The purpose is to increase national interest in related subjects, since the projects resemble work that scientists and engineers do daily.

Nearly three in 10 Americans believe they are not good at math. Accordingly, President Obama launched the "Change the Equation" initiative to promote STEM education.

For more than 100 winning teams, each student member can win up to \$8,000 in savings bonds and each state can win up to \$24,000 for their students.

Teams can begin in August while the competition finishes in February. eCYBERMISSION seeks contacts at local middle schools for this free competition. For more information, visit www.eCYBERMISSION.com or send a message to Jaxon.Teck@gmail.com. Please put eCYBERMISSION in the subject line.

New names for contracting centers

Army Contracting Command

Fort Belvoir, Va. -- U.S. Army Contracting Command is renaming its major contracting centers to reflect their geographical locations.

The centers provide comprehensive acquisition, contracting, business advisory, production support, and depot-level maintenance services in acquiring, fielding, and sustaining Army weapon systems, services and Soldier support.

Commenting on the reason for the change, Jeff Parsons, ACC

executive director, stated: "Over the past two years, we've come to realize the importance of establishing a consistent and practical identity across the organization.

"After much study and consideration, the one area we believe can achieve some major returns on investment is branding and standardizing the naming convention of the ACC contracting centers.

"We decided to incorporate the geographical locations of the centers in their new names."

FORMER NAME	NEW NAME	LOCATION
National Capital Region Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - National Capital Region (ACC-NCR)	Alexandria, VA
TACOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Warren (ACC-WRN)	Warren, MI
CECOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground (C4ISR) [Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance] (ACC-APG) (C4ISR)	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
RDECOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground (SCRT) [Soldier, Chemical, Research and Test] (ACC-APG) (SCRT)	Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD
JM&L Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Picatinny (ACC-PICA)	Picatinny Arsenal, NJ
AMCOM Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Redstone (ACC-RSA)	Redstone Arsenal, AL
Rock Island Contracting Center	Army Contracting Command - Rock Island (ACC-RI)	Rock Island Arsenal, IL

HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING THE PICATINNY VOICE?

Looking for back issues? Did a co-worker recommend an article to read? The Picatinny Voice can now be downloaded in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the Picatinny Arsenal Web site at <http://www.pica.army.mil/PicatinnyPublic/index.asp>. Just click on the newspaper logo, which will take you to another page where you can click on the "Current Issues" link.



THE PICATINNY VOICE

Vol. 23 No. 15 <http://www.pica.army.mil/voice> Published in the interest of the Picatinny Arsenal, NJ, community August 13, 2010



Employee celebration day hits stride

Since 1992, Picatinny Arsenal has celebrated its diversity with Multicultural Employee Day, which this year was July 9.

From the start, the day was designed as a way to celebrate the diverse Picatinny workforce. But rather than emphasize individual cultures, a decision was made to combine all festivities into a one-day event for all.

Thus, Multicultural Employee Day opened into a celebration. The celebration began at 9 a.m. with the 5K Run/Walk. It continued with a variety of food, activities and entertainment.

To capture the spirit of the celebration, here is the photo gallery on page 6.

ARDEC director says good-bye to Picatinny after years of distinguished federal service

BY AUDRA CULLOWY
Picatinny Public Affairs

President John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

"That's what Joe Lamon had done for all of us," explained Lt. Gen. William Phillips to a standing-room-only crowd during a retirement ceremony here June 30 for Dr. Joseph A. Lamon.

Lamon had been the director of the Ammunition Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) since 2005 and had retired after almost 44 years of service to the Army and the nation.

Phillips, former Picatinny commanding general, is now the Army's principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology.

"This is a celebration of 44 years of dedicated service to our Army, Soldiers and Families," Phillips said.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Phillips had a surprise for Lamon, using the occasion to give a brief farewell address and thank him for his years of service, adding that Lamon had been a leader among leaders during his time in

New Commander

Defense Contract Management Agency gets new leadership

PAGE 5

Courage to Reach Out

The Employee Assistance Program is confidential and helps employees with a wide range of issues

PAGE 6

Duty and Danger

Photo essay: Afghanistan patrol

PAGE 7

THE PICATINNY VOICE

Vol. 23 No. 16 <http://www.pica.army.mil/voice> Published in the interest of the Picatinny Arsenal, NJ, community August 27, 2010

New ARDEC director reflects on growth as a leader

Mission, motivation, mentors helped forge style

BY TIMOTHY L. RIDER
Picatinny Public Affairs

"You better get down here," said the other.

Dr. Gerardo Melendez returned the phone to the cradle. Some special operations Soldiers were downtown in his building at Fort Monmouth, N.J., where he served before his new assignment here as director of the U.S. Army Ammunition Research, Development and Engineering Center.

The "Grenade Boats" wanted to use the people involved with fitting specialized equipment on their vehicles operating in Iraq.

Melendez had heard much specific information about how the equipment was performing.

"I guess because of the nature of their operations," said Melendez.

Based on how Melendez had shaped his early career, he might never have been in a position years later to find out what the Grenade Boats wanted to use.

Melendez had been a "Government BOAT" since 1983. After attaining a master's degree in electrical engineering from Brown at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"You go to work in developing some money and then you have some pay and in their view their lives had been saved by the system you helped develop," said Melendez.

"That really gets you," he added.

"The capabilities we've fielded, that we've enabled the fielding of—those are always great accomplishments, especially when you get feedback. But whenever you do that, the life of a Soldier or the life of a Soldier more broadly."

Melendez found that the Army goes to work in developing some money and then you have some pay and in their view their lives had been saved by the system you helped develop.

See something, say something: Army launches iWatch program

BY ERIC KOWAL
Picatinny Public Affairs

When disaster strikes and the recovery phase is under way, one of the first questions asked is, "How did this happen?"

When the United States was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, many people began searching for the answer. Such inquiries also surfaced after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Fingers were pointed and blame was sought. Were there any signs that could have helped to foil the attack? Could authorities have prevented the needless loss of thousands of lives?

Army officials here are now iWatch campaign will encourage citizens to be more sensitive to their surroundings and inform them clearly by using proper reporting instructions if something seems out of the ordinary.

The incident at Times Square is a perfect example of an individual being a witness to a situation and reporting it to authorities," said William Doyle, one of the installation's security officers in charge of force protection.

ALERTNESS IN ACTION

In that case, a bystander noticed a suspicious vehicle causing trouble. He reported it to authorities, resulting for responses to evacuate one of the busiest streets in the world to just a few minutes.

The month of August is typically Active Awareness Month, but Doyle said our efforts to be vigilant should not stop when the month ends.

One promptly reported observation can save an untold amount of lives.

According to an article from the Internal Security Management Command, "Which aims to heighten public sensitivity to indicators of possible terrorist actions, which encourages people to report suspicious behavior to military or civilian law enforcement agencies."

On Nov. 5, 2009, a Soldier at Fort Hood opened fire on a crowd, killing and injuring many of the press. Before the incident, several reports were made about the shooter's strange behavior. However, the Soldier was still able to carry out his attack, killing 13 people and wounding 30.

"The shooting at Fort Hood is a prime

Defense Planning

Advisory panel calls for broader reforms in acquisition

PAGE 3

What's in a name?

ARDEC historian Patrick J. Owens traces the origins of the name "Picatinny"

PAGE 9

Survival Training

New recruits get more than their first wet

PAGE 6

THE PICATINNY VOICE

Vol. 23 No. 15 <http://www.pica.army.mil/voice> Published in the interest of the Picatinny Arsenal, NJ, community August 13, 2010

GOODBYE TO TNT Engineers qualify safer, more stable explosive

BY TRACY ROBILLARD
Picatinny Public Affairs

The U.S. Army recently qualified a new explosive that has the same lethality as traditional TNT but is safer for Soldiers because it is far less likely to explode if dropped, shot at or hit by a roadside bomb during transport.

The new formula, called IAX-101 (Innovative Munition Explosive 101), is proven to be safer and more stable than TNT, which ultimately saves the weight and jobs when it comes to transporting, storing and loading ammunition containing the new explosive.

"To allow us to meet the lethality of TNT while being more thermally stable," said Philip Samuels, a chemical engineer with Ammunition Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC). "We're taking the conventional explosive and replacing it with a group of ingredients that are less sensitive."

Anthony Di Stasio, ARDEC Project Officer, said, "Because it's less sensitive, the Army can store more shells in a magazine, they can store more of it in one building at a closer distance to the Soldiers. It significantly reduces the logistics burden both here in the U.S. and overseas."

Throughout the last four years, experts at ARDEC and Project Manager Civilian Ammunition Systems (PM CAS) have worked together to select, test and prepare a more stable explosive to meet the Department of Defense requirement for insensitive munitions.

The goal was to find a safer, less sensitive formula that could easily be fed for use in the Army's existing large-caliber projectiles.

In 2007, the Picatinny team began an open competition, soliciting TNT-like formulas from government, foreign, and private organizations under the Common Low-cost Insensitive Munition Explosive (CLIME) program. The team received 23 submissions, and after a year of testing, they selected the top three formulas to advance to another round of system level tests.

"The system level tests represent real hazards and threats our Soldiers face in combat," Di Stasio said. "If they are being attacked by RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades), they are being attacked by RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades)."

See NEW EXPLOSIVE, Page 7

ARDEC employee top finisher in Army contest

BY MARK SANCHEZ
Picatinny Public Affairs

Computer scientist Thomas Marulis has worked within the Ammunition Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny for three years. Yet one of his notable accomplishments thus far was achieved in the comfort of his home.

Marulis is one of five first-place finishers in the Army's "Apps for Soldiers" contest. He developed an Android application called "New Recruit" that provides information for prospective Soldiers. It includes information about military ranks and insignia, Army news feeds, an Army physical fitness test calculator and a Body Mass Index calculator.

The competition was an Apple vs. Android challenge intended for various Army personnel to produce web and/or mobile applications for use throughout the Army.

"All of my work was volunteer work," Marulis said. "All development was done at my house. I was literally just picked whatever you wanted to be." Marulis said.

The contest was open to any idea. You literally just picked whatever you wanted to be." Marulis said.

The computer scientist surprised his wide range of options as to which application might best serve the Army.

"I thought about how many young kids have all those smart phones. They're very appealing to them. I thought an application could be a very powerful tool for recruiting."

"Recruitment had fallen sharply, and I was thinking that this could act as an advertisement to help get people into the Army."

"There's also a bonus for Army awards. R&D funds. It gets the funds from the GSNK Web site and provides them to the application." Marulis added.

There is also a significant

Obama announces 'unprecedented commitment' to military families

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON-- President Barack Obama on Jan. 24 unveiled a governmentwide plan to strengthen military family support, offering a glimpse at a few of the new programs and cooperative efforts being launched in the coming months to improve quality of life and well-being for military families.

"Today, I'm proud to announce that for the first time ever, supporting the well-being of our military families will be a priority not just for the De-

partment of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, but all across the federal government," Obama said.

Speaking from the White House's East Room, Obama unveiled this "unprecedented commitment" to military families with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, at his side. Top government and Defense Department officials also were on hand, including Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the service chiefs, and their spouses.

Spotlighting the importance of military family support, Obama recalled his trip to Afghanistan last month, where he spoke to troops and asked them what he could do to better support them.

"Without missing a beat, they looked me in the eye and they gave me their answer," the president said. "It wasn't about more equipment. It wasn't about more resources on the battlefield. In

fact, it wasn't about them.

"They said, to a man: 'Sir, take care of our families,'" he said. "If we know our families are all right back home, then we can do our jobs."

Service members and their families have done everything the nation has asked of them in this decade of war, and the nation now must serve them with the same unfailing support, Obama said. That's exactly why he directed a governmentwide review of military family support, he added, calling for "innovative new partnerships" to better serve military families worldwide.

Earlier today, the White House released the results of this nearly yearlong review of military family support. From child care to health care to spouse employment, the report -- titled "Strengthening our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment"--identifies the key issues military families face and presents programs and re-

sources government agencies plan to launch in the coming months to address them.

The report outlines four key areas the whole-of-government effort plans to address: enhancing military families' well-being and psychological health, developing military spouse career and education opportunities, increasing child care availability and quality, and ensuring excellence in military children's education and development.

Improving quality of life is a priority, Obama noted, offering a glimpse at some programs that will focus in the coming months on families' well-being. The Defense and Health and Human Services departments, for example, are working together to improve community mental health services and to prevent suicides, he said.

And a new office in the Treasury Department will help to protect military families from financial pitfalls, such as predatory lending.



Photo by Todd Mozes

Guest speaker Alan Malinchak leads a seminar on "Leading by Example" at Picatinny Arsenal, Jan. 20, 2011. Sponsored by the ARDEC Financial Management office, the seminar taught employees how to exemplify behavior they want to see in others.

February is National Heart Disease Awareness Month

BY MARCI KECK

Exceptional Family Member Program

Heart disease is the number one cause of death in men and women, greater than the next five causes of death combined.

According to the latest estimates by the American Heart Association, more than 64 million Americans have one or more forms of cardiovascular disease.

The heart is a pump, and like other pumps, it can become clogged, break down and need repair.

How much do you know about the dangers that threaten this organ, and what can you do to keep it healthy?

Take a Heart Health Quiz at <http://health.howstuffworks.com/diseases-conditions/cardiovascular/heart/heart-health-quiz.htm>.

Fortunately, there are ways to significantly lower your chances of developing heart disease and reverse the effects of a current heart condition you may or may not be aware of, such as lowering cholesterol and blood pressure, eating healthy and having a more active life style.

Heart-Healthy Living, <http://www.hearthealthyonline.com/>, can help you make smart choices

without feeling deprived, demystify heart issues and treatments, and show how easy changes can help you feel better and live longer.

The primary goal of The Heart Truth campaign is to raise awareness that heart disease is the number one killer of women.

The Heart Truth is a national awareness campaign for women about heart disease sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The NHLBI leads the nation in a landmark heart health awareness movement that is being embraced by millions who share the common goal of better heart health.

To learn more about heart health, please visit the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Web page at <http://www.pica.army.mil/mwr/ACS/EFMP.htm>.

Additionally, you can contact the EFMP Manager at Picatinny Arsenal, Marci Keck, at 973-724-2145 or marci.keck@us.army.mil.

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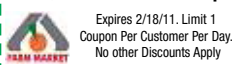


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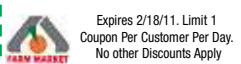
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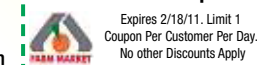
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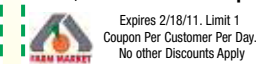
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Army's new chief scientist seeks broad technical perspective

Fish praises development of Enhanced Performance Round

Army News Service

The Army's new chief scientist is already immersed in a range of scientific activities to include research into suicide prevention, air and ground-based unmanned systems, Soldier protective gear and precision munitions, among others.

Appointed to his new post in October, Scott Fish signed on after spending several years as the director and deputy director of the Institute for Advanced Technology at the University of Texas, Austin—one of the Army's premier research partners.

"This is a fantastic job with a great group of people," Fish said with enthusiasm. "One of my primary responsibilities is to maintain a broad technical perspective—to be able to reach across our broad portfolio and bring that broad knowledge to bear personally, and bring in the right experts for our senior leaders in supporting their decisions.

"Maintaining a network of experts with our technical community is a key element of being a good chief scientist."

Fish arrives with a wealth of research, academic, industry and military experience. Prior to his post at the University of Texas, he served as a program manager at the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, assistant vice president for technology at Science Applications International Corp., and as naval architect and systems engineer with the Naval Surface Warfare Center.

One of Fish's key, high-priority initial assignments has been to collaborate with scientists and mental health professionals to ensure maximum benefit in research investments needed to promote health and reduce suicides within the Army and across the services.

"The vice chief of staff (Gen. Peter Chiarelli) published a major study last July on this topic, and I've been asked to take a look at how we prioritize and evaluate research within this area and recommend improvements to the existing research governance methods," he said.

"This look reaches across the services and DoD and so far, I'm finding that the Army medical and mental health research communities have taken this need very seriously."

Fish is also sharply focused on technologies which improve protection for forces and serve to better develop the Soldier as a decisive weapon in battle.

"Certainly Soldier protection is a key element. Beyond the traditional body armor approach, there seem to be novel ways of protecting the Soldier both with worn equipment as well as with equipment that is around them," Fish said.

"We are looking at concepts for Soldiers as they operate in small units and how they can collectively provide protection to one another.

"There are a lot of innovative folks out there getting the message that ensuring our Soldiers are and continue to be a decisive weapon is a priority spearheaded by Doctor O'Neill (Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Malcolm Ross O'Neill)," he added.

Fish is also busy analyzing the latest trends in

unmanned technology with the goal of leveraging scientific advances to bring new capability to Soldiers.

This includes a thorough examination of cutting-edge algorithms designed to increase autonomy of ground robots and Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Advances in science have made it possible to demonstrate unmanned prototypes able to transport cargo, search for explosives and track enemy targets - while needing little or no human intervention or tele-operation, Fish explained.

Some versions of these systems are getting limited use in theater, to show benefits beyond the thousands of tele-operated robots Soldiers are using already in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We want to increase autonomy both to reduce Soldier workload as well as network communication load.

"The more autonomous decisions made local to individual sensors and mobile platforms—the less video and other high-volume data we need to move around with radios," Fish said.

"There are many algorithms which have shown benefits in these areas. We need to push this technology quickly to allow our Soldiers to reap the physical security benefits of remote-intelligent assistants on the battlefield and within our logistical system," he said.

"I'm talking with autonomy researchers across the government, industry and academia to ensure we're leveraging innovative work in this area for both near and far-term military benefits."

With these issues in mind, Fish met with his Air Force counterpart and will soon link up with the Navy experts in this field to identify possibilities for more inter-service collaboration.

"The chief scientist of the Air Force is very interested in potential areas for collaboration," Fish said. "The Army and Air force both have unmanned air systems collecting reconnaissance data.

The use of common, autonomous-data analysis, related to what we use for autonomous driving or flying, to sift through the data, could highlight areas of high interest and augment human interpretation or cognition of the enemies' intent."

With respect to Autonomous Navigation Systems or ANS that is now being developed for ground robots, Fish said the Army will continue to leverage the latest technological advances.

"There's a lot of terrific research being conducted by companies and universities out there—that should help us achieve greater cost savings while continuously improving performance."

On the munitions front, Fish praised the technology of the Army's new Enhanced Performance Round (M855A1)—a more capable, lead-free 5.56mm ammunition round.

"The 855A1 is fantastic, and the development and acquisition team has done a terrific job of getting from idea through validation and fielding.

"We will certainly be looking at next-generation techniques and we will also be looking at how we migrate these new technologies to other rounds."



Appointed the Army's chief scientist in October, Scott Fish looks over new technology while attending the 27th Army Science Conference Dec. 1, in Orlando, Fla. Army photo



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Softball aficionado reflects on Picatinny tradition

BY MARTIN KANE

Business Manager,
Light weight 155mm
howitzer program

I started playing in the Picatinny Softball League in 1980.

Working in an office without any softball players, I responded to an article in The Voice looking for employees interested in participating.

I was assigned to the "Jerkweeds" as colorful a group as you could ever imagine. What we lacked on the field, the team made up for off the field. Having participated in softball leagues growing up, I was impressed by the competitiveness of the league at Picatinny.

That year, the league was dominated by the Avengers, a team which would fight for championships over the next decade or so. This was a time when players made every effort to schedule summer vacations around the softball schedule and to get back early from travel so as not to miss a game.

Many of the local "taverns" sponsored teams and certain teams were known to support their sponsor both before and after games. We on the Jerkweeds just struggled for respectability but had a heck of a time in the 16-team league (and made a lot of money for the Mount Hope Inn).

In response to an inquiry from

Joe Hamill earlier this year, I contacted a number of long-time and former participants to try to piece together the history of Picatinny's softball league.

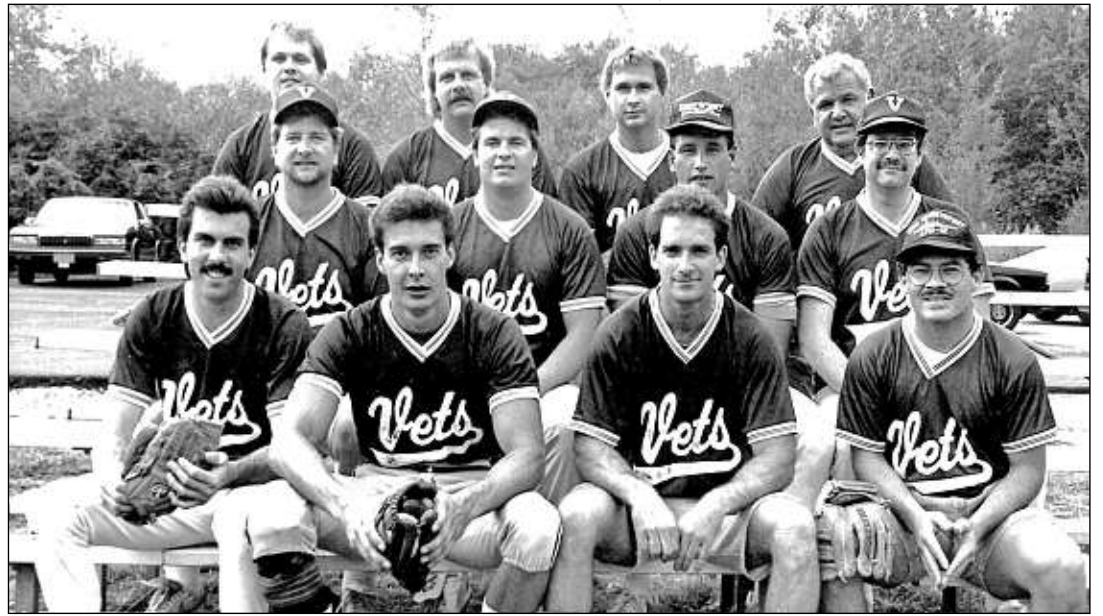
Sports at Picatinny have a long tradition. In 1937, Picatinny employees published a hardcover yearbook called the Ordnance Bomb which captured life on post. In this publication, it was noted that "In the realm of recreational activities at Picatinny Arsenal, athletics have played a prominent part, particularly in the last decade.

While we do not pretend to convey the impression that Picatinny is a proving ground for Olympic aspirants, the facilities for outdoor sports are surprisingly adequate."

During the 1930s, Picatinny had a baseball league, which was organized in the spring of 1932. During these years there was no field on post and the league first played on the Mount Pleasant Baseball Field and then moved to Replogle Field in Wharton.

Known as the Picatinny Arsenal Twilight League, it was comprised of four to six teams. The Ordnance Bomb noted the league played "a high degree of baseball at well attended games." In 1936, there were teams from Administration, Inspection, Loading and Metal Components.

At some point in the past,



Championship photo of the 1990 Vets that includes many leaders at Picatinny today as well as two current Army Senior Executive Service civilians: Kevin Fahey and Jim Shields. Courtesy photo.

the baseball league at Picatinny gave way to a fast pitch softball league that maintained many of the same rules associated with the national pastime. This league appears to have been popular in the 1950s and 1960s.

It had been believed that the slow-pitch league started sometime in the early to mid 1970s and with some rule changes along the way had continued for the last 35 or so years. Thanks to the help of Picatinny historian Pat Owens, it came to light that slow-pitch softball at Picatinny actually dates back to 1968. Pat located an article from the March 18, 1968 Picatinny News (the predecessor of the Voice) reporting that the "Men's Softball League" expected to adopt "a slo-pitch rule." The June 17, 1968 issue reported that the new rules were working out okay. Pat also located issues of the Voice from 1971 and 1974 indicating that the Men's League will "again" use the "slo-pitch rules."

In trying to piece together the early years of the league, we relied on memories, recollections and enormous assistance from Pat Owens. The early years of the Picatinny Softball League were dominated by the Vets, organized by Army veterans and led by such colorful and engaging characters as Dominick Moreo and Ed Colantoni.

Getting younger in later years with such familiar Picatinny names as Jim Shields, Kevin Fahey, Jeff Dyer, Chris Hatch, Dave Panhorst, Bob Dombrowski, Pete Errante, Ken Heider, and John Pedersen, the Vets would win the Picatinny championship nine times. Members of the team would morph into the Destroy-

ers, a team which would win the championship an additional four times in the 1990's.

The 1980s were extremely competitive in the league with only the Bombers and Avengers winning more than once. The mid 1980s also saw the formation of the Stealers by Lee Moreau. "Stealing" players who were friendly outside of work, but had played for different teams, Lee put together a strong club that continues in the league today, nine championships later with only two of their original players still active (the old-timer writing this article and the former "young pup" of the team, Phil Gorman).

The 1990s saw three teams dominate the league with the Vets, Stealers and Destroyers splitting the ten championships. The first decade of the 21st century was dominated by the Stealers and a controversial team from Rockaway Township with a mostly non-Picatinny roster each winning the championship four times, with long-time teams, the Youngbloods and War Pigs, each winning a championship. During this period, there was concern that the softball league would fold.

Down to just eight teams at one point with an aging workforce, many thought that softball would follow the flag football and basketball leagues into oblivion. This was why a non-Picatinny team was allowed into the league.

However, the hiring surge that followed 9-11 and the war on terrorism greatly increased Picatinny's workforce and lowered its average age. An entire new generation started playing

in the softball league (as well as restarting or expanding other sports leagues at Picatinny). The Picatinny Softball League expanded and is once again a very vibrant 18 teams.

Changes in Picatinny softball over the years have included the introduction of a mat for the calling of balls and strikes, as well as eliminating a maximum arc height for pitches. These changes helped end some of the traditional controversies with umpire's calls.

The league also now uses certified umpires, a change from the earlier exclusive usage of Picatinny employees. Perhaps no change has been more significant that the inclusion of women over the years. In earlier years, Picatinny used to field two teams in the women's league conducted by the Morris County Industrial Recreation Association. In recent years, while still a relatively small number, more and more women have started playing in the Picatinny Softball League.

This past season the Alpha Betas won their first league championship with a team that will surely be a power in the upcoming years. So while the league continues to evolve, it remains a wonderful way to meet folks from various backgrounds, ages and occupations at Picatinny.

For me, the Picatinny Softball League has been an extremely rewarding part of my life and career at Picatinny.

The camaraderie and friendships endure even after players stop playing or retire. With snow on the ground it is nice to look forward to another season of Picatinny softball

See ya out there this summer!.

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